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Supplementary Materials and Methods

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Data collection

Principal investigators were invited to join this collaborative group if they had published or unpublished studies on prostate cancer risk and endogenous sex hormone concentrations and/or nutritional biomarkers from blood samples collected from men prior to diagnosis of prostate cancer and male controls. Studies were identified by literature searches of computerised bibliographic systems, including PubMed, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, and CancerLit, and through discussions with colleagues, as described previously^{1, 2}. Collaborators provided data on baseline IGF-I, IGF-II, IGFBP-1, IGFBP-2 and IGFBP-3 concentrations and a range of anthropometric (including height, weight, waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio (WHR)), behavioural (smoking and alcohol), and sociodemographic factors (racial/ethnic group, education status), generally collected at the same time as blood collection (Supplementary Tables 1, 2a and 2b). The data from each study were collected and incorporated into a central database.

Men were considered eligible for this analysis if they had measures of at least one of circulating IGF-I, IGF-II, IGFBP-1, IGFBP-2, or IGFBP-3 concentrations, had not been diagnosed with prostate cancer by the time of censoring, and had recorded age, height and weight at the time blood collection. Overall, these exclusion criteria resulted in 16,024 men (out of 17,838; Supplementary Figure 1) from the following studies: Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Study (ATBC)³, Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA)⁴, British United Provident Association Study (BUPA)⁵, Child Health and Development Studies (CHDS)⁶, Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS)⁷, European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC)^{8, 9}, Health In Men Study (HIMS)^{10, 11}, Health Professionals Follow-up Study (HPFS)¹²⁻¹⁴, Japan Collaborative Cohort Study (JACC)¹⁵, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program (KPMCP)¹⁶, Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (MCCS)¹⁷, Multiethnic Cohort (MEC)¹⁸, Northern Sweden Health and Disease Cohort (NSHDC)^{19, 20}, Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial (PCPT)²¹, Physicians' Health Study

(PHS)²²⁻²⁴, Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO)²⁵, Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment (ProtecT) feasibility study²⁶ and main study²⁷, SUplémentation en Vitamines et Minéraux AntioXydants (SU.VI.Max)²⁸, by dataset closure on January 1st, 2018

The characteristics of these studies in the collaborative analyses are found in their original publications and are summarised in Supplementary Table 1. All studies are either of a prospective cohort design^{4-13, 15-18} or prospective observational studies within a randomised trial^{3, 19-29}. This analysis used secondary data, therefore ethical approval for this analysis was not necessary; however, each study individually obtained ethical approval and further details of participant consent and study design can be found in the original publications^{3-13, 15-29}.

Data Processing

IGF-I, IGF-II, IGFBP-1, IGFBP-2 and IGFBP-3 concentrations were logarithmically transformed to approximate normal distributions. The analyses examined associations with age (22-49 [mean age=42.6], 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+ years), body mass index (BMI [<20.0, 20.0-22.4, 22.5-24.9, 25.0-27.4, 27.5-29.9, 30.0-32.4, 32.5-34.9, 35.0-37.4, 37.5+ kg/m²]), height (<160.0, 160.0-164.9, 165.0-169.9, 170.0-174.9, 175.0-179.9, 180.0-184.9, 185.0-189.9, 190.0+ cm), smoking status (never, former, current: <15, 15-29, 30+ cigarettes per day), alcohol consumption (none, 1-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+ g ethanol per day), ethnic/racial group (non-Hispanic white, African American/Caribbean, Hispanic/Latino, East Asian, and other), waist circumference (<90.0, 90.0-94.9, 95.0-99.9, 100.0-104.9, 105.0+ cm), WHR (<0.900, 0.900-0.932, 0.933-0.966, 0.967-0.999, 1.00+), marital status (currently married/cohabiting, not currently married/cohabiting), and family history of prostate cancer (no, yes: defined as a father and/or brother diagnosed with prostate cancer) with circulating IGF and IGFBP concentrations. Categories of the exposure variables investigated were defined *a priori* based on sample size and the data distribution

Statistical Analysis

Partial correlations between the IGFs and IGFBPs were calculated using study-specific standardised values: $(x_{jk}-m_j)/s_j$, where m_j and s_j denote the mean and standard deviation of the log-transformed IGF concentrations in study j and x_{jk} is an observation from that study, enabling comparison across studies. These standardised correlation coefficients were adjusted for age at blood collection, BMI and height (included as categorical variables, described above).

Geometric mean concentrations of IGFs and IGFBPs were calculated using predicted values from analysis of variance models scaled to the overall geometric mean concentration and adjusted for study, age at blood collection, BMI, and height (with the exception of when we analysed the associations of age, BMI and height with IGF and IGFBP concentrations, where the exposure variable was not included as an adjustment

covariate). Adjusted geometric mean concentrations in relation to waist circumference and WHR were also repeated with and without adjustment for BMI. Analyses of smoking and alcohol consumption were mutually adjusted for each other. To enable robust adjustment for study, each study had to contain observations in a minimum of two categories for each primary exposure to be included in the respective exposure analysis. To investigate the relationship of IGF and IGFBP concentrations with ethnicity/race, studies were limited to the five (all USA-based) studies that had sufficient representation from men across multiple ethnic/racial groups (CHDS, CHS, MEC, PCPT, PHS).

Tests for heterogeneity

Heterogeneity of means by category of each characteristic was tested using the F test. Where appropriate, a test for trend was calculated using the analysis of variance test, with the categorical variables entered as linear values scored consecutively as 1, 2, 3 etc. Owing to the highly skewed distribution of alcohol consumption, the test for trend was calculated based on median values within each category excluding non-drinkers. To test for trend by smoking status, never and former smokers were combined and coded as 0; light, medium and heavy smokers were coded as 1, 2 and 3, respectively as current smoking status may be more likely to determine circulating IGF and IGFBP concentrations than previous smoking history. In a secondary analysis the test for trend was calculated for current smokers only.

Heterogeneity between studies was tested using a study-by-factor interaction term (fitted separately) in the analysis of variance, and assessed using the F test. Circulating IGFBP-1 and IGFBP-2 concentrations are known to be affected by food intake^{30, 31}; as fasting status was not recorded for 58% of participants, therefore this variable was not included as a covariate in the analyses, but heterogeneity between exposure factors and overnight fasting status for these two binding proteins was assessed using the likelihood ratio test.

Sensitivity analysis

The analyses were conducted after restricting the dataset to: i) white men only (n=11,611), ii) studies which used enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA), iii) men with IGF and IGFBP concentrations that were within the range of [lower quartile – 3*interquartile range, upper quartile + 3*interquartile range] within each study in order to examine the effect of outliers (n=147). The primary analysis was also repeated after further adjustment for smoking and alcohol.

Statistical software

All statistical tests were two-sided, and due to the multiple tests conducted the statistical significance threshold was $p < 0.01$. Data analysis was carried out using Stata Statistical Software release 14.1 (Stata Corp., College Station, TX, USA).

Supplementary Tables and Figures

Supplementary Table 1: Participant characteristics by study

Study, country	N (% of total)	Year of blood collection	Mean age, years (SD)	Age range, years	Mean height, cm (SD)	Mean BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	% Current drinkers (median daily alcohol consumption, g ethanol)	% Current smokers (median number of daily cigarettes)	% White ethnic group	% Married/cohabiting at blood collection	% University degree	% Family history of prostate cancer
ATBC ³ , Finland	311 (1.9)	1985-1988	58.5 (4.5)	52-70	173.5 (5.9)	26.5 (3.9)	82.2 (10)	100 (20)	100	81.4	5.5	4.2
BLSA ⁴ , USA	110 (0.7)	1969-1993	64.7 (9.4)	43-83	175.0 (6.7)	26.5 (3.7)	-	7.3	97.3	83.3	58.2	-
BUPA ⁵ , UK	423 (2.6)	1975-1982	54.5 (6.2)	36-64	175.6 (7.0)	25.4 (2.9)	98.1 (15)	19.1 (20)	-	-	-	-
CHDS ⁶ , USA	434 (2.7)	1959-1966	33.9 (6.9)	22-50	178.6 (6.7)	24.6 (2.7)	76.8 (5)	52.0 (20)	62.4	99.8	33.1	-
CHS ⁷ , USA	174 (1.1)	1989-1993	72.4 (4.4)	65-89	173.5 (6.6)	26.7 (4.1)	-	13.8	75.7	83.3	14.5	-
EPIC phase I ⁸ , Europe	636 (4.0)	1992-1999	60.9 (6.2)	43-76	172.6 (7.0)	27.0 (3.6)	87.2 (13)	27.9 (15)	100	89.3	23.0	-
EPIC phase II ^{8,9} , Europe	1,193 (7.4)	1992-1999	58.7 (6.1)	39-77	174.3 (6.8)	26.7 (3.6)	90.5 (13)	25.9 (15)	100	88.5	24.1	-
EPIC phase III/IV [‡] , Europe	1,787 (11.2)	1992-1999	56.1 (7.2)	36-78	172.5 (7.2)	26.9 (3.4)	88.8 (14)	25.3 (16)	100	88.4	23.1	-
HIMS ^{10,11} , Australia	1,279 (8.0)	2001-2004	76.3 (3.6)	71-87	171.7 (6.9)	26.5 (3.7)	65.9 (7)	4.8	100	86.3	21.4	-
HPFS I ^{12,13} , USA	682 (4.3)	1993-1995	65.1 (7.4)	46-80	178.1 (6.4)	26.0 (3.5)	73.5 (6)	3.9 (20)	99.4	93.0	100	10.3
HPFS II ¹²⁻¹⁴ , USA	629 (3.9)	1993-1995	62.0 (7.8)	46-80	177.5 (6.7)	26.1 (3.6)	71.5 (6)	3.0	92.4	93.0	100	10.8
JACC ¹⁵ , Japan	94 (0.6)	1988-1991	68.1 (5.6)	58-83	159.4 (6.9)	22.4 (2.7)	52.1 (2)	37.0 (20)	0.0	93.4	2.7	-
KPMCP ¹⁶ , USA	212 (1.3)	1964-1970	71.8 (4.5)	60-85	169.9 (6.7)	25.8 (3.1)	69.7 (10)	17.9 (30)	98.6	82.7	5.4	-
MCCS ¹⁷ , Australia	1,047 (6.5)	1990-1994	58.3 (7.2)	40-72	172.1 (7.3)	27.2 (3.7)	78.3 (13)	13.2 (20)	100	81.0	22.2	-
MEC ¹⁸ , USA	772 (4.8)	1994-2004	68.5 (7.1)	49-84	173.9 (7.7)	26.9 (4.1)	90.5 (9)	11.7 (15)	14.5	79.2	31.9	8.3
NSHDC ^{19,20} , Sweden	557 (3.5)	1987-2000	57.9 (4.3)	40-72	175.4 (5.9)	26.6 (3.7)	100 (4)	20.8	100	80.0	12.3	-
PCPT ²¹ , USA and Canada	1,022 (6.4)	1993-1996	63.3 (5.5)	55-83	177.5 (7.0)	27.6 (4.0)	69.0 (3)	7.6 (20)	84.0	87.7	37.0	20.7
PHS ²²⁻²⁴ , USA	757 (4.7)	1982-1983	58.4 (8.0)	39-84	178.1 (6.8)	24.7 (2.5)	83.6 (5)	8.9 (20)	94.2	-	100	15.4
PLCO ²⁵ , USA	858 (5.4)	1994-2000	64.8 (4.8)	54-75	177.9 (6.5)	27.4 (3.9)	70.0 (4)	9.1 (20)	100	86.9	42.4	6.1
ProtecT feas ^{*26} , UK	568 (3.5)	1999-2001	61.5 (5.0)	50-70	175.3 (6.5)	26.6 (3.6)	83.5 (17)	10.9	-	-	-	4.1
ProtecT main ²⁷ , UK	1,770 (11.0)	2002-2009	61.9 (5.0)	45-70	176.1 (6.5)	26.9 (3.7)	84.6 (17)	13.6	-	-	-	5.6
SU.VI.MAX ²⁸ , France	709 (4.4)	1994-1995	54.3 (4.5)	42-61	173.4 (6.3)	25.5 (3.0)	82.6 (28)	13.0	-	87.7	30.8	4.4
Overall†	16,024	1959-2009	61.2 (9.5)	22-89	174.7 (7.3)	26.6 (3.7)	80.6 (10)	17.0 (20)	90.4	87.0	38.1	8.8
% Missing data ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.8	1.3	19.9	31.4	19.7	56.8

* ProtecT feasibility study

† Excludes missing data

^a Excludes studies where data were not collected

‡ Not published

Abbreviations: ATBC=The Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Study; BLSA= The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging; BUPA= British United Provident Association Study; CHDS=Child Health and Development Studies; CHS=Cardiovascular Health Study; EPIC= European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition; HIMS= Health In Men Study; HPFS= Health Professionals Follow-up Study; JACC= Japan Collaborative Cohort Study for Evaluation of Cancer; KPMCP= Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program; MCCS=Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study; MEC= Multiethnic Cohort Study of Diet and Cancer; NSHDC=Northern Sweden Health and Disease Cohort;

PCPT= Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial; PHS=Physicians' Health Study; PLCO= The Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian; ProtecT= Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment; SU. VI MAX= Supplémentation en Vitamines et Minéraux AntioXydants; UK=United Kingdom; USA= United States of America.

Supplementary Table 2a: Assay methods and geometric mean analyte concentrations in IGFs

Study, publication year(s)	Sample	IGF-I (nmol/L)			IGF-II (nmol/L)		
		Method	Geometric mean (95% CI)	CV %	Method	Geometric mean (95% CI)	CV %
ATBC, 2003	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	17.7 (17.0-18.4)	6.6‡	-	-	-
BLSA, 2000	Serum	E RIA (Endocrine Sciences, Calabasas Hills, California)	17.8 (16.6-19.0)	4.6-20‡	E RIA (Endocrine Sciences, Calabasas Hills, California)	40.8 (38.7-43.1)	4.9-30‡
BUPA, 2006	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	15.0 (14.5-15.6)	N/A	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	89.7 (87.3-92.2)	-
CHDS, 1988	-	Not published	30.2 (29.2-31.2)	-	-	-	-
CHS, 2005	EDTA plasma	IRMA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	19.2 (18.2-20.3)	3.0-12.3‡	-	-	-
EPIC phase I, 2007 ^b	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas, phase 1 and phase 2 excluding Swedish samples)	21.2 (20.6-21.8)	3.0-13.7‡	-	-	-
EPIC phase II, 2012 ^b	Serum	IDS-iSYS (Immuno-diagnostic Systems Ltd, Swedish samples for phase 2)	19.1 (18.7-19.5)	3.2-4.4‡	Not published	111.6 (109.4-113.8)	-
EPIC phase III/IV ^{** b}	Serum	-	-	-	ELISA (Ansh Labs, Webster, Texas)	59.3 (58.6-60.9)	2.5-3.6 ^a
HIMS, 2010	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Gladesville, NSW, Australia)	16.8 (16.5-17.2)	8.6-12.2 ^a	-	-	-
HPFS I, 2005, 2011 ^b	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	22.2 (21.6-22.8)	<10 (batch 1998 to 2000, CV=13.1)†	-	-	-
HPFS II, 2011, 2015 ^b	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	27.2 (26.4-27.9)	-	-	-	-
JACC, 2010	Serum	IRMA (Daiichi Radioisotope Lab, Tokyo, Japan)	13.0 (12.1-14.0)	2.1-3.5†	IRMA (Daiichi Radioisotope Lab, Tokyo, Japan)	68.5 (64.9-72.8)	2.7-4.4†
KPMCP, 1998	Serum	E RIA (Nichols Institute Diagnostics, San Clemente, California)	20.7 (19.7-21.7)	N/A	-	-	-
MCCS, 2006	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	21.8 (21.4-22.3)	11.1 ^a	-	-	-
MEC, 2010	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	22.9 (22.4-23.5)	2.1†	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	114.4 (112.0-117.0)	1.8†
NSHDC, 2000, 2004	Plasma	E IRMA (Immunotech, Marseille, France)	25.3 (24.6-26.1)	8.6-13.8‡	-	-	-
PCPT, 2013	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	26.1 (25.5-26.7)	5.3-7.1†	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	223.8 (219.9-227.7)	4.2-5.0†
PHS, 1998, 2002, 2010	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	22.7 (22.1-23.3)	4.9-6.5†	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	66.5 (63.5-69.7)	N/A
PLCO, 2007	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	24.9 (24.3-25.5)	9‡	-	-	-
ProtecT feas, 2004 [*]	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	16.1 (15.7-16.6)	3-15‡	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	54.1 (52.9-55.4)	5-26‡
ProtecT main, 2012	Serum	RIA (Professor Holly, in house assay)	20.5 (20.2-20.9)	ICC 0.66-0.86	RIA (Professor Holly, in house assay)	96.9 (95.6-98.2)	ICC 0.84- 0.91
SU.VI.MAX, 2005	Plasma	CLIA (Diagnostic Products, Los Angeles, California)	19.0 (18.5-19.4)	5.3¶	IRMA (Immunotech, Marseille, France)	140.6 (138.7-142.7)	6.8¶

* ProtecT feasibility study

† Intra-assay

^a Inter-assay

‡ Intra-and inter-assay range

¶ Not specified

^b Separate study assay populations

** Not published

Abbreviations: ATBC=The Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Study; BLSA= The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging; BUPA= British United Provident Association Study; CHDS= Child Health and Development Studies; CHS=Cardiovascular Health Study; CLIA= chemiluminescent immunometric assay; CV=coefficient of variation; E= extraction step; ECIA= electrochemiluminescence immunoassay; EDTA= ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; ELISA= enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; EPIC= European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition; HIMS= Health In Men Study; HPFS= Health Professionals Follow-Up Study; ICC= intraclass correlations; IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor; IRMA= Immunoradiometric assay; JACC= Japan Collaborative Cohort Study for Evaluation of Cancer; KPMCP= Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program; MCCS=Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study; MEC= Multiethnic Cohort Study of Diet and Cancer; NSHDC=Northern Sweden Health and Disease Cohort; PCPT= Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial; PHS=Physicians' Health Study; PLCO= The Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian; ProtecT= Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment; RIA= radioimmunoassay; SU.VI.MAX= SUPplémentation en Vitamines et Minéraux AntioXydants

Supplementary Table 2b: Assay methods and geometric mean analyte concentrations in IGFBPs

Study, publication year(s)	Sample	IGFBP-1 (nmol/L)			IGFBP-2 (nmol/L)			IGFBP-3 (nmol/L)		
		Method	Geometric mean (95% CI)	CV %	Method	Geometric mean (95% CI)	CV %	Method	Geometric mean (95% CI)	CV %
ATBC, 2003	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	79.0 (76.7-81.3)	7.30†
BLSA, 2000	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	NE RIA (Endocrine Sciences, Calabasas Hills, California)	94.8 (90.1-99.6)	5.1-17‡
BUPA, 2006	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	95.2 (92.8-97.6)	-
CHDS, 1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHS, 2005	EDTA plasma	-	-	-	-	-	-	IRMA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	108.2 (104-112.6)	2.1-7.1‡
EPIC phase I, 2007	Serum	Not published	0.24 (0.22-0.26)	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	128.8 (126.2-131.5)	5.30-9.40‡
EPIC phase II, 2012 ^{**b}	Serum	-	-	-	Not published	11.4 (10.9-11.9)	-	-	-	-
EPIC phase III/IV ^{**b}	Serum	ELISA (Alpco, Salem, New Hampshire)	0.05 (0.05-0.05)	2.2-3.9 ^a	ELISA (Ansh Labs, Webster, Texas)	2.81 (2.73-2.90)	2.0-4.4 ^a	-	-	-
HIMS, 2010	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Gladesville, NSW, Australia)	0.78 (0.74-0.83)	5.2-8.6 ^a	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Gladesville, NSW, Australia)	128.7 (126.8-130.6)	4.4-16.8 ^a
HPFS I, 2005 ^b	Plasma	-	-	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	112.1 (109.8-114.3)	<10†
HPFS II 2011, 2015 ^b	Plasma	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	0.65 (0.59-0.71)	2.2-17.2†	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	126.7 (124.1-129.4)	<10†
JACC, 2010	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	IRMA (Daiichi Radioisotope Lab, Tokyo, Japan)	90.6 (85.8-95.6)	3.1-4.2†
KPMCP, 1998	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MCCS, 2006	Plasma	-	-	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	103.6 (101.9-105.2)	9.5¶
MEC, 2010	Serum	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	0.74 (0.68-0.80)	2.2†	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	132.1 (129.7-134.6)	2.50†
NSHDC, 2000, 2004	Plasma	IRMA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	1.30 (1.44-1.48)	2.9†	RIA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	16.4 (15.3-17.7)	2.50†	IRMA (Immunotech, Marseille, France)	80.2 (78.4-81.9)	3.6-6.9‡
PCPT, 2013	Serum	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	14.0 (13.5-14.5)	5.5-8.9‡	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	136.6 (134.4-138.9)	4.2-4.8†
PHS, 1998, 2002, 2010	Plasma	Not published	0.16 (0.15-0.18)	-	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	107.8 (105.8-109.8)	7-9†
PLCO, 2007	Serum	-	-	-	-	-	-	ELISA	155.2 (152.4-158.0)	9†
ProtecT feas, 2004*	Serum	-	-	-	RIA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	16.5 (15.6-17.3)	5-14‡	RIA in-house	107.4 (105.0-109.8)	4-14‡
ProtecT main, 2012	Serum	-	-	-	ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories)	18.4 (17.9-18.9)	ICC 0.81-0.95‡	RIA (Professor Holly, in house assay)	149.5 (147.6-151.4)	ICC 0.71- 0.88
SU.VI.MAX, 2005	Plasma	-	-	-	RIA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Webster, Texas)	6.6 (6.1-7.1)	8.6%¶	CLIA (Diagnostic Products, Los Angeles, California)	143.0 (139.9-146.2)	6.3¶

* ProtecT feasibility study

† Intra-assay

^a Inter-assay

‡ Intra-and inter-assay range

¶ Not specified

^b Separate study assay populations

** Not published

Abbreviations: ATBC=The Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Study; BLSA= The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging; BUPA= British United Provident Association Study; CHDS= Child Health and Development Studies; CHS=Cardiovascular Health Study; CLIA= chemiluminescent immunometric assay; CV=coefficient of variation; E= extraction step; ECIA= electrochemiluminescence immunoassay; EDTA= ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; ELISA= enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; EPIC= European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition; HIMS= Health In Men Study; HPFS= Health Professionals Follow-Up Study; ICC= intraclass correlations; IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor; IRMA= Immunoradiometric assay; JACC= Japan Collaborative Cohort Study for Evaluation of Cancer; KPMCP= Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program; MCCS=Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study; MEC= Multiethnic Cohort Study of Diet and Cancer; NSHDC=Northern Sweden Health and Disease Cohort; PCPT= Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial; PHS=Physicians' Health Study; PLCO= The Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian; ProtecT= Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment; RIA= radioimmunoassay; SU.VI.MAX= Supplémentation en Vitamines et Minéraux Antioxydants

**Supplementary Table 3: Partial correlation coefficients
between log-transformed IGFs and IGFBPs**

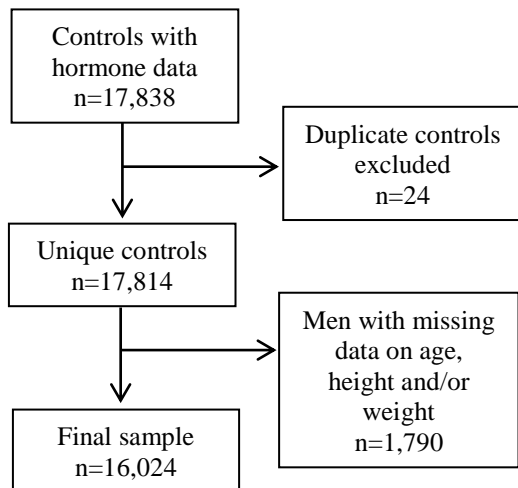
Analyte	IGF-I	IGF-II	IGFBP-1	IGFBP-2	IGFBP-3
IGF-I	1				
IGF-II	0.41*	1			
IGFBP-1	-0.15*	-0.11*	1		
IGFBP-2	-0.09*	-0.20*	0.42*	1	
IGFBP-3	0.58*	0.65*	-0.12*	-0.19*	1

Measurements are standardised by study and adjusted for age, BMI and height.

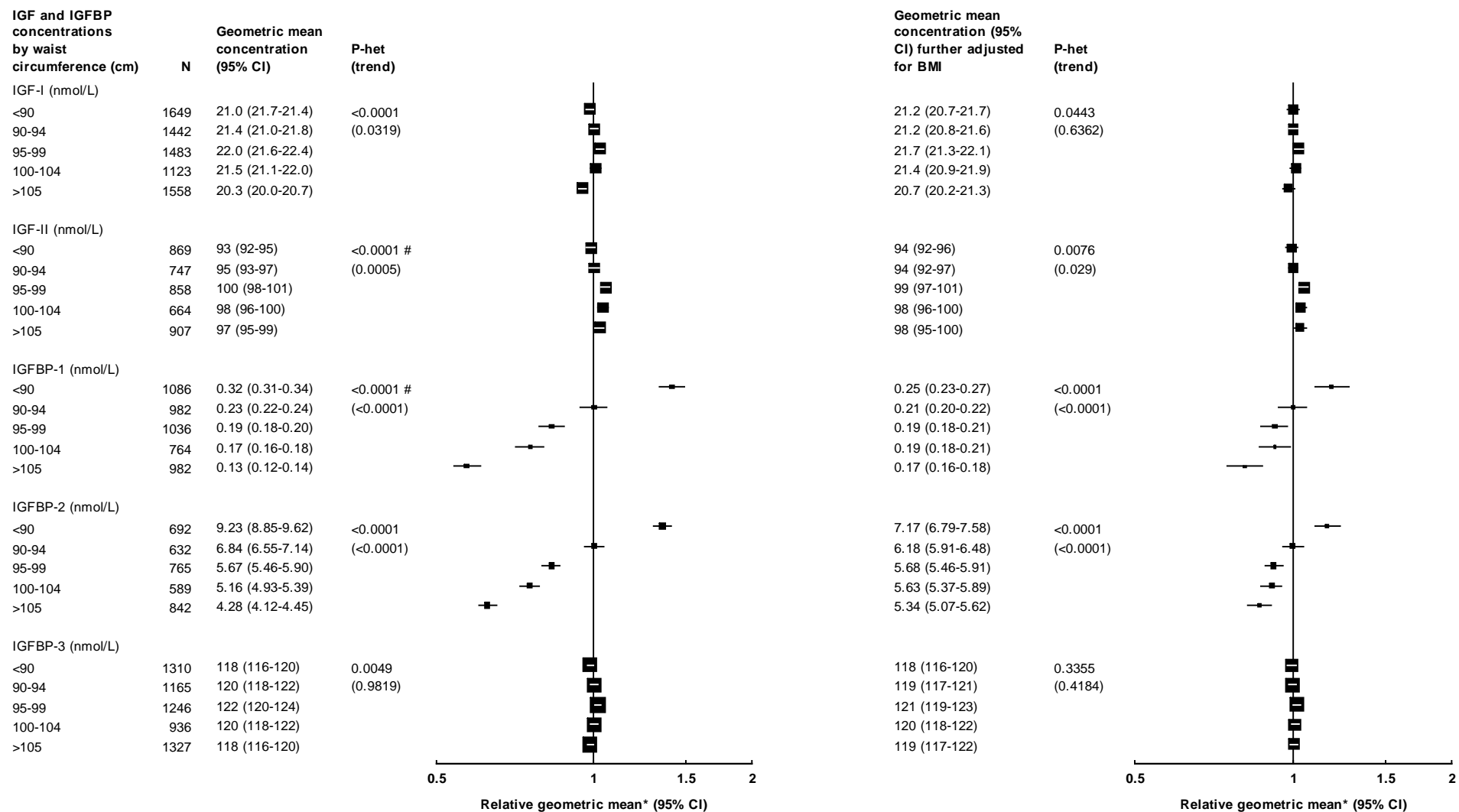
Number of observations ranged from 12,012 (IGF-I and IGFBP-3) to 2,873 (IGFBP-1 and IGFBP-2)

*P<0.01

Abbreviations: BMI= Body mass index; IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein



Supplementary Figure 1: Participant selection chart



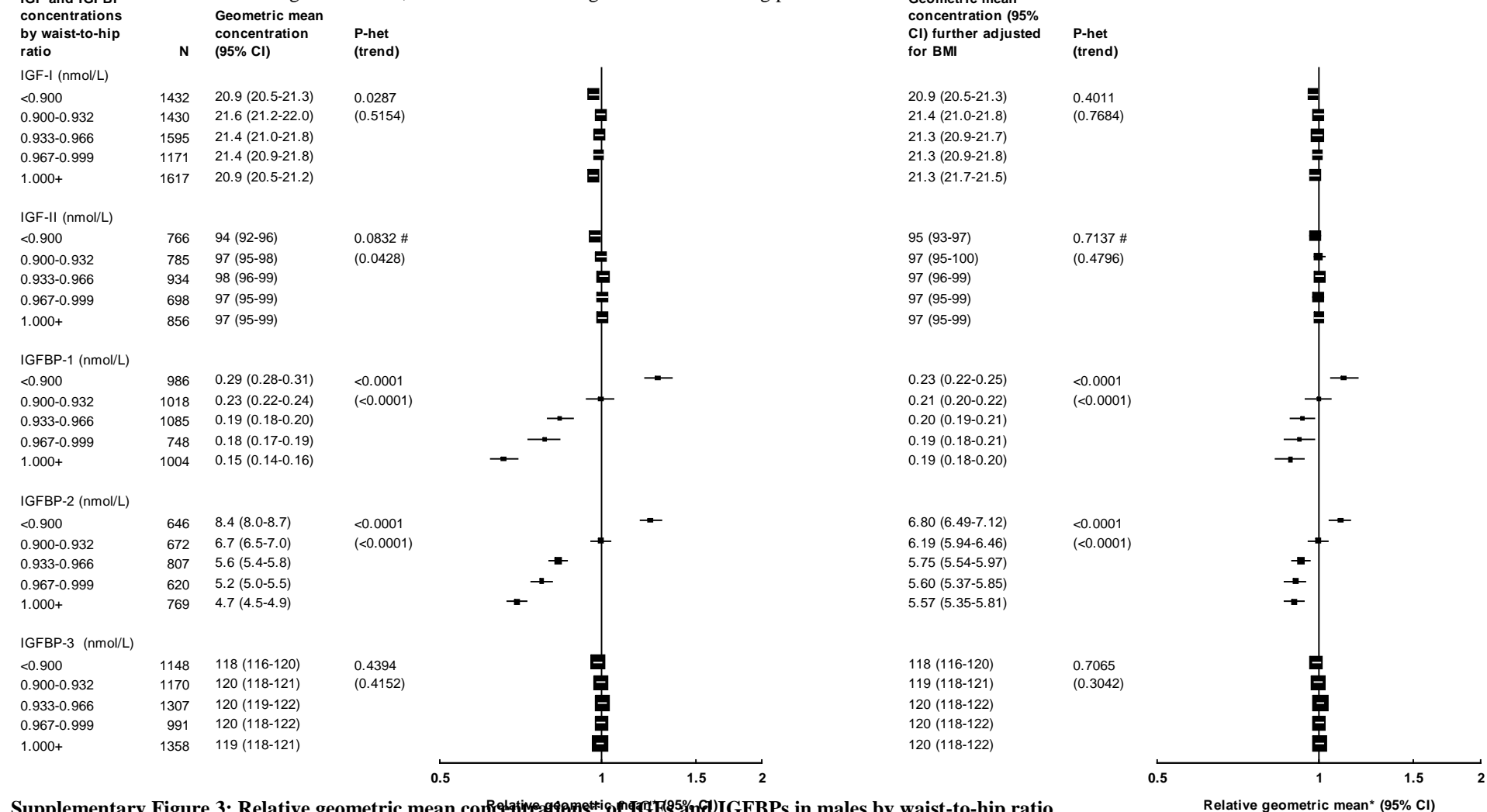
Supplementary Figure 2: Relative geometric mean concentrations* of IGFs and IGFBPs in males by waist circumference

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the F test. P for trend was calculated using the analysis of variance test, with categorical variables entered as linear values scored consecutively.

*relative to < 90-94 cm

#significant heterogeneity by study P<0.01

Abbreviations: IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein



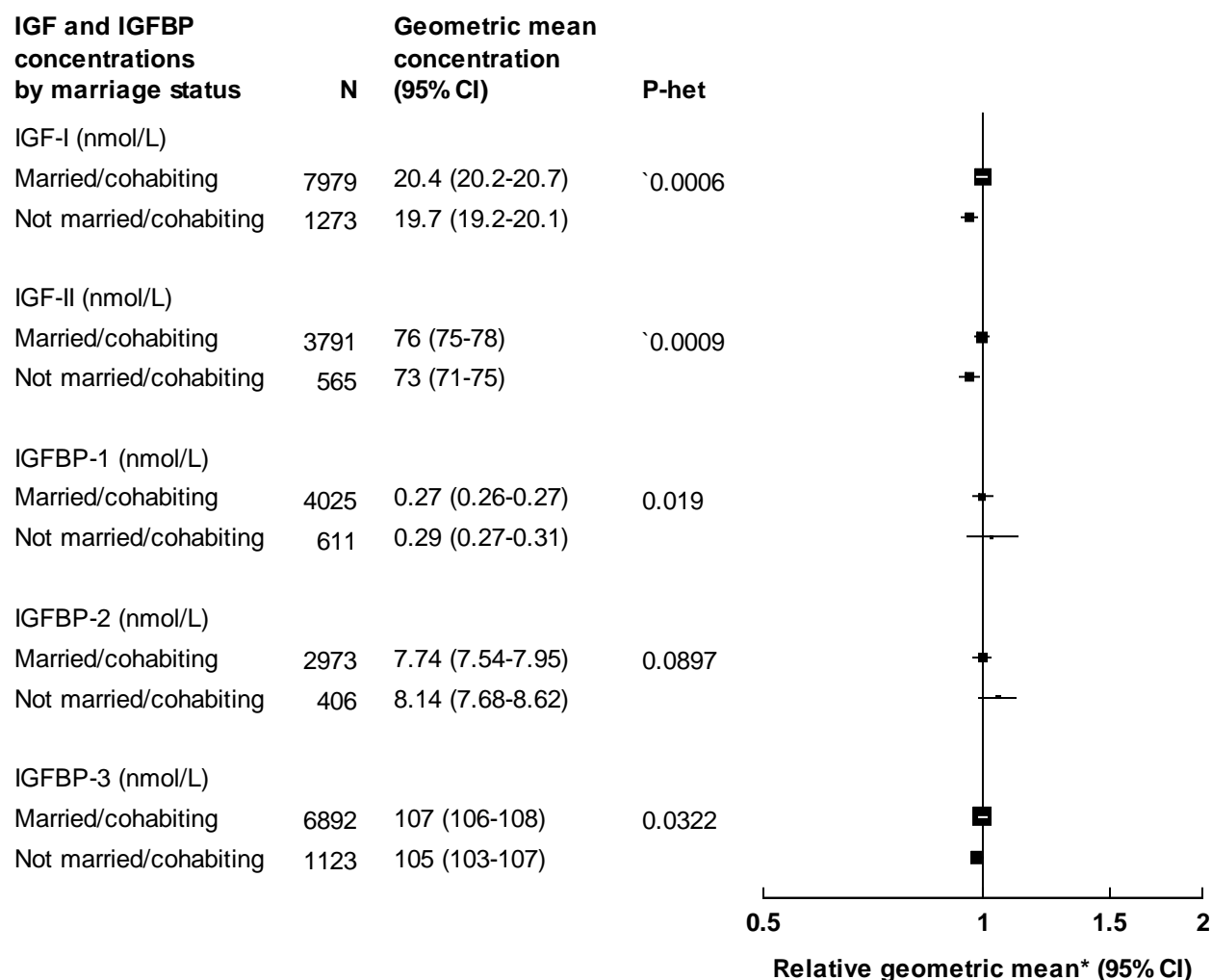
Supplementary Figure 3: Relative geometric mean concentrations* of IGFs and IGFBPs in males by waist-to-hip ratio

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the F test. P for trend was calculated using the analysis of variance test, with categorical variables entered as linear values scored consecutively.

*relative to < 0.900-0.932

#significant heterogeneity by study P<0.01

Abbreviations: IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein

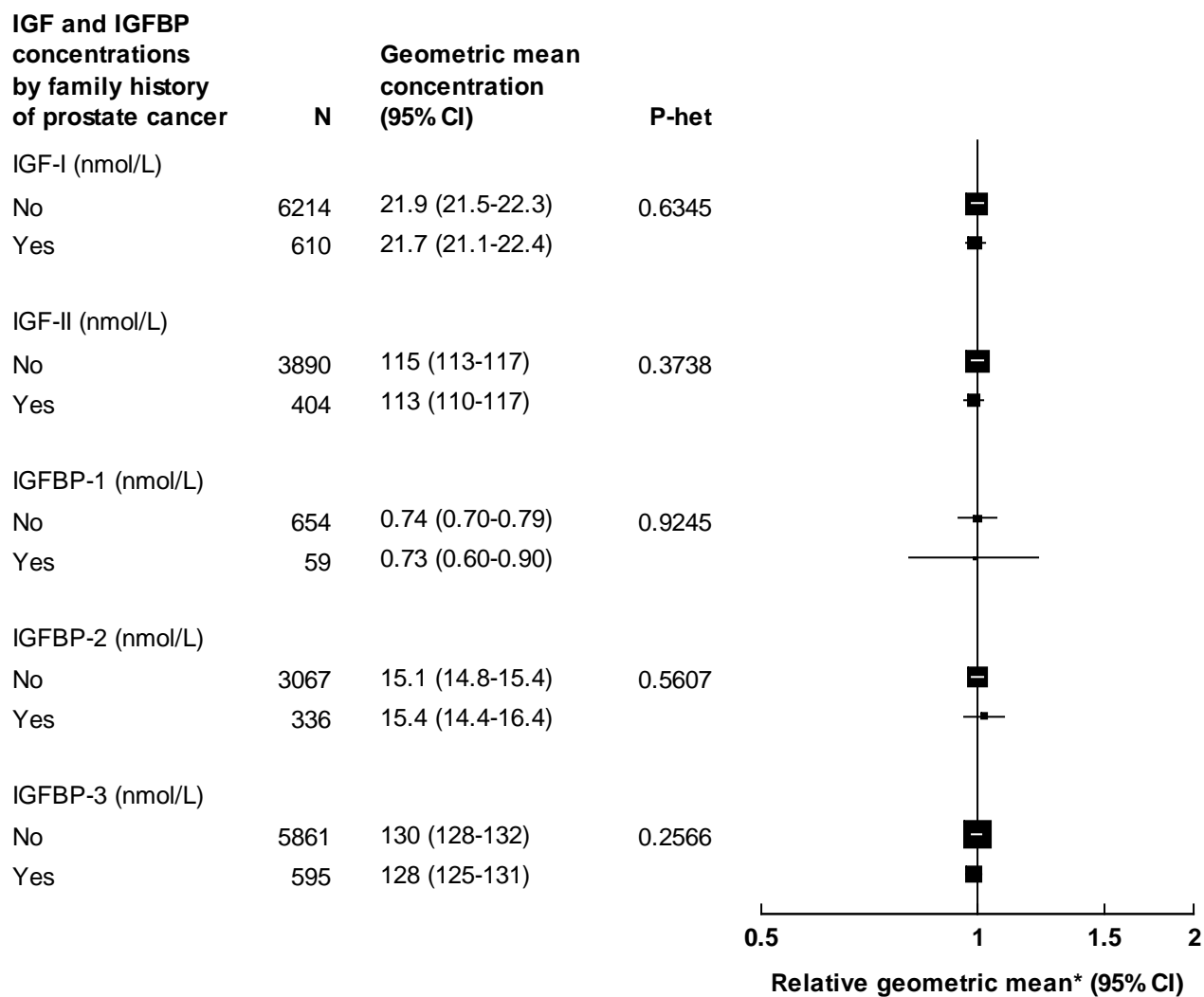


Supplementary Figure 4: Relative geometric mean concentrations* of IGFs and IGFBPs in males by marriage status, adjusted for study, age, height and BMI

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the F test. There was no statistically significant heterogeneity by study

*relative to currently married/cohabiting

Abbreviations: IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein

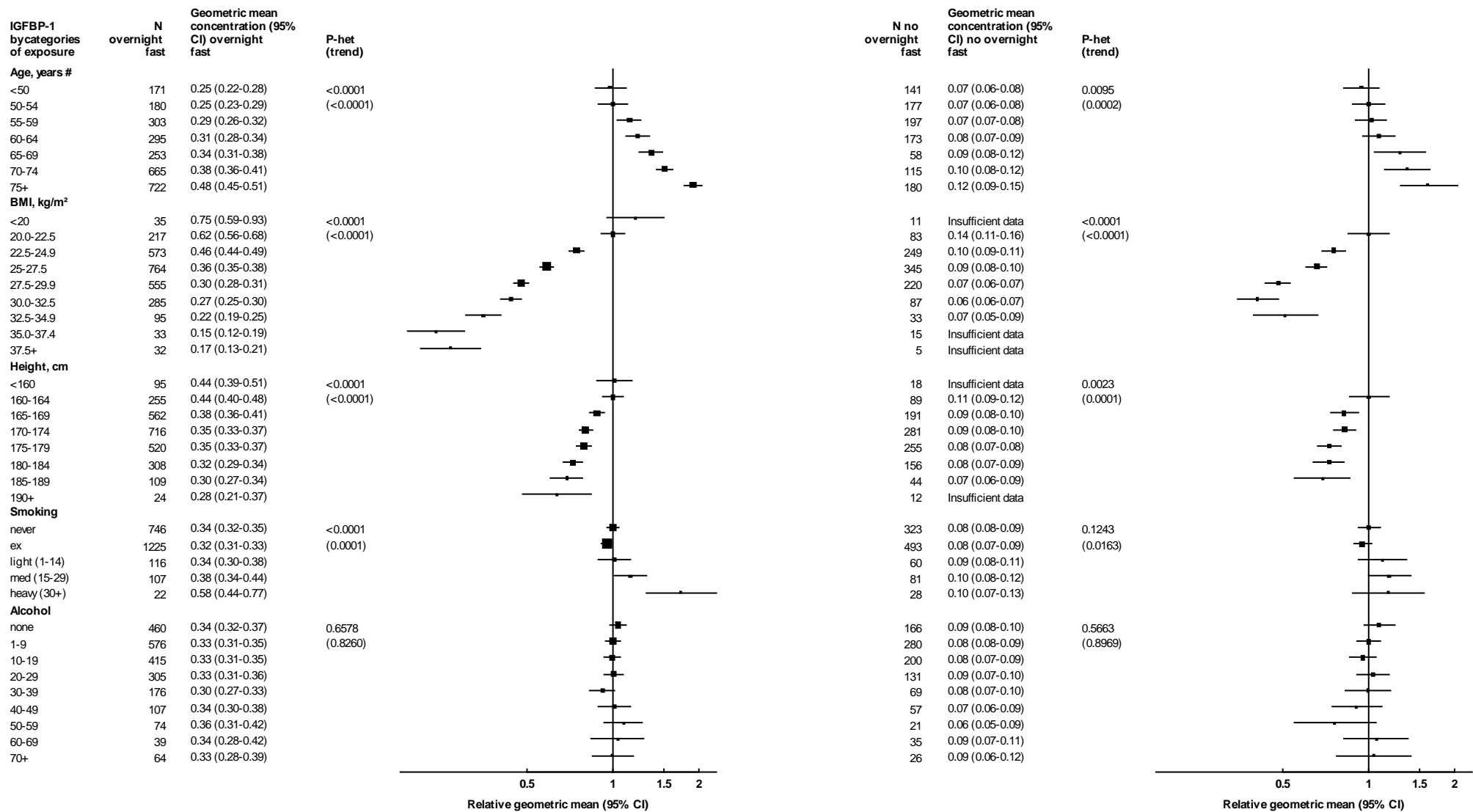


Supplementary Figure 5: Relative geometric mean concentrations* of IGFs and IGFBPs in males by family history of prostate cancer, adjusted for study, age, height and BMI

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the F test. There was no statistically significant heterogeneity by study

*relative to no family history of prostate cancer

Abbreviations: IGF= Insulin-like growth factor; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein



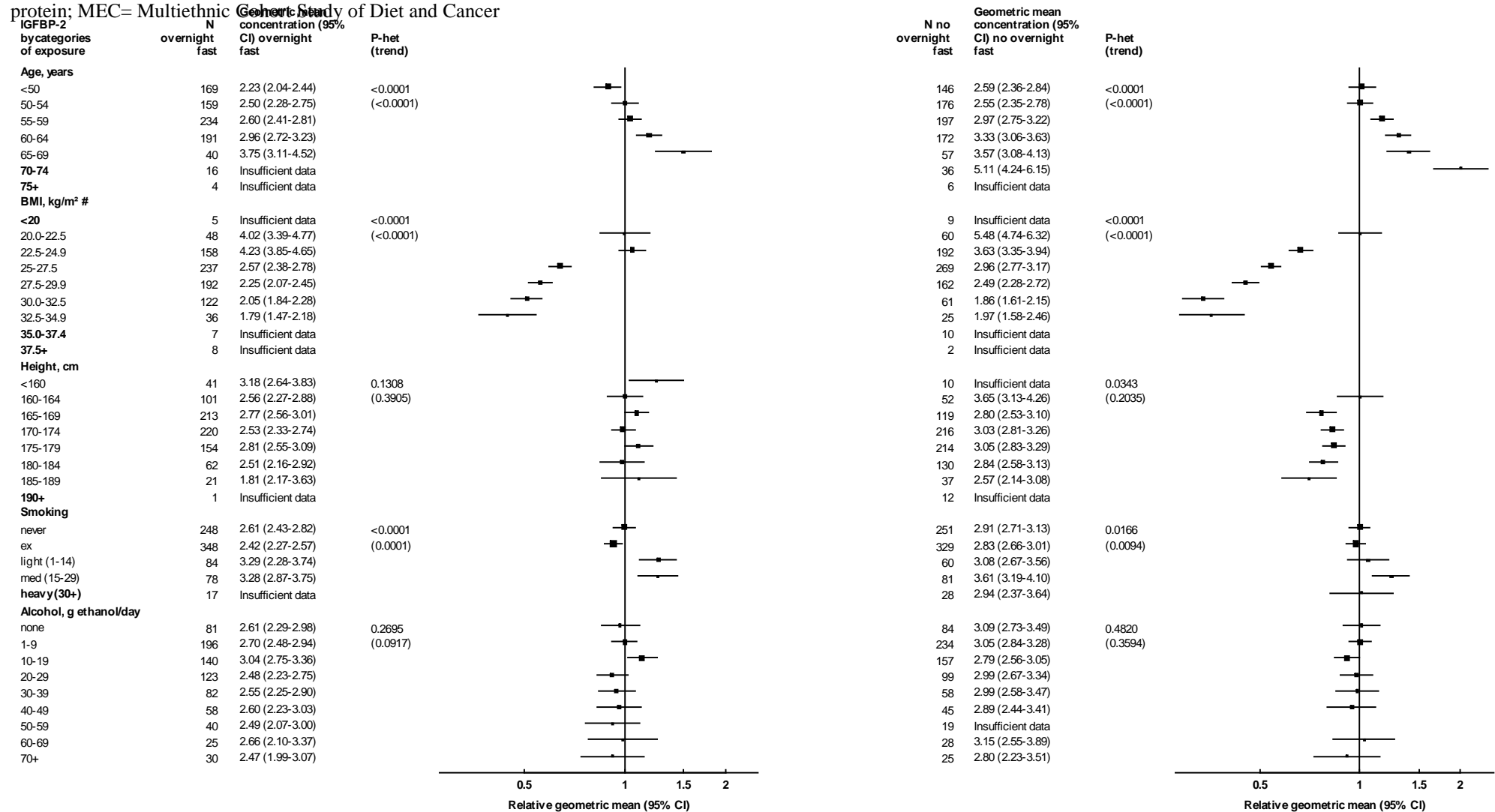
Supplementary Figure 6: Relative geometric mean concentrations of IGFBP-1 by fasting status*

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the LR test. P for trend was calculated using the analysis of variance test, with categorical variables entered as linear values scored consecutively.

* Overnight fasting status was recorded in EPIC, HIMS and MEC studies

Significant heterogeneity by fasting status $P < 0.01$

Abbreviations: BMI= Body mass index; EPIC= European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition; HIMS= Health In Men Study; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein; MEC= Multiethnic Cohort Study of Diet and Cancer



Supplementary Figure 7: Relative geometric mean concentrations of IGFBP-2 by fasting status*

P for heterogeneity is the heterogeneity of means between categories, tested using the LR test. P for trend was calculated using the analysis of variance test, with categorical variables entered as linear values scored consecutively.

* Overnight fasting status was recorded in EPIC.

Significant heterogeneity by fasting status $P < 0.01$

Abbreviations: BMI= Body mass index; EPIC= European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition; IGFBP= Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein

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